



North Devon Council

Report Date: 7th February 2023

Topic: Ilfracombe Harbour Charges Review 2023-2024

Report by: Ilfracombe Harbour Master

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. The Harbour Board have delegated authority to recommend changes to Harbour mooring and relevant miscellaneous charges to Full Council and it is considered that there are sufficient grounds to raise Harbour charges for the 2023-2024 season.
- 1.2. Rising maintenance costs and continuing pressure on the public purse require due consideration.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1. It is recommended that all mooring dues are increased by 5% and relevant miscellaneous charges are increased by 15%

3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1. The continuing rises in the cost to repair, upgrade and to maintain the Harbour facilities for stakeholders and visitors have been mainly borne by NDC resources. It is felt that users of the Harbour and its facilities should continue to help bear part of these incurred costs.

4. REPORT

- 4.1. Harbour charges are reviewed annually by the Harbour Board. The CPI for September 2022 was 10.1% and this is reflected in the recommendation of charges for the coming financial year.
- 4.2. It is recommended that some charges are rounded to enable easier on site collection.
- 4.3. Options Considered :
 - 4.3.1. Hold Charges at 2023-24 rates for all charges.
 - 4.3.2. Increase charges in line with 2022 CPI figure of 10.1%
- 4.4. Reasons for rejecting options :
 - 4.4.1. Rejecting 4.3.1, holding charges at 2022-23 rates has been rejected as it fails to take into account the increasing financial burden of Harbour costs and improving services.
- 4.5. Consultation:
 - 4.5.1. Consultation was held from 21st November to 5th December 2022.

- 4.5.2. All pleasure Boat Owners, Commercial Operators, Fishermen, Lundy Company and Waverley Excursions were consulted.
- 4.5.3. Responses received were in overall acceptance of the proposals in this report, the responses received are included for consideration.

S&P Fish – *‘As you will expect as a commercial user of the harbour, any increase only makes the job more difficult, with record high fuel prices commercial fishing has definitely seen a massive downturn in profitability but I do understand that everything is going up around us and we are all facing the same increases across the board.’*

Responses from private boats owners –

‘Considering the cost of living has risen by 10%, and looking at other Harbours charges, I consider it very reasonable.’

‘No objections from me! You and Rick provide us with a great service and long may it continue.’

Response from Commercial Operator –

‘Although not great with the current climate i think it’s inevitable, Bookings are strong for next year, i just hope the groups can fill them.’

Response from the Waverley Excursions General Manager –

‘Thanks for including us in the email to update on charges. Not unsurprising that charges will go up given the rate of inflation.’

4.6. Conclusion :

- 4.6.1. The income generated by the Harbour needs to increase to keep pace with inflation and increasing maintenance and service provision costs.
- 4.6.2. This is not considered to be a key decision.

5. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

5.1. The recommendation will increase revenue at or above the rate of inflation and will help Ilfracombe Harbour to keep in touch with its competitors.

5.2. There are no manpower implications contained within this report

6. EQUALITIES ASSESSMENT

6.1. There are no equalities implications anticipated as a result of this report



7. ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

7.1. Having undertaken the Environmental Assessment Checklist. There are no environmental implications arising from these policy proposals.

8. CORPORATE PRIORITIES

8.1. What impact, positive or negative, does the subject of this report have on:

8.1.1. The commercialisation agenda: Positive

8.1.2. Improving customer focus and/or : N/A

8.1.3. Regeneration or economic development :N/A

9. CONSTITUTIONAL CONTEXT

9.1. Appendix 5,6(a)

9.2. Delegated power

10. STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY

This report contains no confidential information or exempt information under the provisions of Schedule 12A of 1972 Act.

11. BACKGROUND PAPERS

The following background papers were used in the preparation of this report: (The background papers are available for inspection and kept by the author of the report).

11.1. 2022-23 Harbour Charges

12. STATEMENT OF INTERNAL ADVICE

The author (below) confirms that advice has been taken from all appropriate Councillors and Officers:

Capt. Georgina Carlo-Paat MBE, Ilfracombe Harbour Master